

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the above-identified application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC '103 - REFERENCE ANTEDATED

The 35 USC '103 rejection of claims 1-9 as being unpatentable over M. Yoshii (U.S. Patent 6,851,613) in view of Takita et al. (U.S. Patent Pub 2005/0218227) is respectfully traversed. More particularly, Applicant respectfully notes that an effective filing date (04 November 2003) of the primary Yoshii reference falls between the present application's U.S. filing date (21 April 2006) and the present application's foreign priority date (22 October 2003), and accordingly, such Yoshii reference can be removed as valid prior art by the filing of an English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document(s) together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Attached herewith is an English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document(s), together with Applicant's representative's statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Based upon the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejections are respectfully requested. The above statements, or the filing of any English translation(s), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the art is substantively relevant, but is merely use of a procedural approach to preclude art. Further, at this point, it is respectfully submitted as a reminder that, if new art is now

cited against any of Applicant's unamended claims, then it would not be proper to make a next action final.

ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the fact that the primary Yoshii reference has been removed as valid prior art, and therefore the previously-applied references no longer support any prior art rejection, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s)

(including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.46139X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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